

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a number of discrete elements, comprising the steps of:

manufacturing an array of said discrete elements₁ wherein each element is attached to at least one of a supporting structure and ~~and/or~~ at least one other element by at least one electrically conductive support tab₁ [[,]] and

selectively removing or breaking the at least one support tab ~~or tabs~~ supporting [[a]] one of the discrete ~~particular elements or particular elements~~, and wherein the at least one support tab ~~or tabs are electrically conductive and are~~ is removed or broken by passing a current therethrough.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a number of Gunn diodes, comprising the steps of:

manufacturing an array of Gunn diodes₂ wherein each Gunn diode is attached to at least one of a supporting mesh and ~~and/or~~ at least one other Gunn diode by at least one electrically conductive support tab₂ [[,]] and

selectively removing or breaking the at least one support tab ~~or tabs~~ supporting [[a]] one of the ~~particular Gunn diodes or particular Gunn diodes~~, and wherein the at least one support tab ~~or tabs are electrically conductive and are~~ is removed or broken by passing a current therethrough.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus to separate~~ Apparatus for separating a selected element ~~of selected elements~~ from an array of inter-connected elements, ~~comprising:~~ including

a first portion ~~to break through~~ capable of removing or breaking an electrically conductive ~~the connection or connections~~ between ~~[[a]]~~ the selected element and ~~it's~~ a neighbouring element ~~or elements,~~ by passing a current through the connection; and

a second portion ~~to pick up~~ capable of picking up or otherwise removing the selected element ~~from the array or elements,~~ wherein the connection is ~~or connections are electrically~~ conductive, ~~and including means to break the connection or connections by passing a current therethrough.~~

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the first ~~second~~ portion includes a mechanism to apply energy ~~means for applying energy~~ to the connection ~~or connections.~~

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the ~~including~~ mechanism causes ~~means for causing~~ a current to flow through the connection ~~or connections.~~

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the selected element comprises a Gunn diode ~~or selected elements are Gunn diodes.~~

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the element ~~or elements~~ comprises a pre-form having a ~~[[of]]~~ Maltese cross-like shape.